



Nosce teipsum.

*This Oracle expounded in two
Elegies.*

1. Of Humane knowledge.
2. Of the Soule of Man, and the immortalitie thereof.



LONDON,

Printed by Richard Field, for John Standish.

1599.

John Standish

Noſce teipſum.

The Order of the Knights of the
Golden Fleece.

- i. Of humane knowledge.
- ii. Of the Soule of Man, and the immortalitye thereof.



LONDON.

Printed by Richard Smith for John Sturges.

1662.



TO MY MOST GRACIOVS
dread Soueraigne.

TO that cleare Maiestie, which in the North,
Dosth like another Sunne in glorie rise,
VVhich standeth fixt, yet spreads her heavenly worth,
Loadstone to Heares, and Leadstarre to all Eyes;

Like Hea'v'n in all, liketh' Earth in this alone,
That though great Saates by her support do stand,
Yet she her selfe supported is of none,
But by the Finger of th' Almightyes hand;

To the diuineſt and the richest minds,
Both by Arts purchase, and by Natures Dower,
That euer was from Heauen to Earth confin'd,
To shew the utmost of a Creatures power;

To that great Spirit, which doth great Kingdomes moue,
The sacred Spring, whence Right and Honor streames,
Disfilling Vertue, shedding peace and Loue,
In euery place, as Cynthia sheds her beames;

I offer vp some sparkles of that fire,
VVhereby we reason, liue, and moue, and bee:
These sparkes by nature euermore aspire,
VVhich makes them to so high an Highnesse flee.

Faire Soule, since to the fairest bodie knit,
Thou giv'st such lively life, such quickning power,
Such sweete celestiall influence to it,
As keepes it still in youths immortall flower,

(As where the Sunne is present all the yeare,
And neuer doth retire his golden ray,
Needs must the Spring be euerlasting there,
And every season like the Month of May.)

O many, many yeares may you remaine,
A happie Angell to this happie Land:
Long, long, may you on earth our Emperesse raigne,
Ere you in Heauen a glorious Angell stand;

Stay long (sweet Spirit) ere thou to Heauen depart,
VVhich mak'st each place a Heauen wherein thou art.

Her Maiesties least and
vnworthiest subiect.

John Dauies.



Of humane knowledge.

W Hy did my parents send me to the schooles,
That I with knowledg might enrich my mind,
Since the *desire to know* first made men fooles,
And did corrupt the roote of all mankind?

For when Gods hand had written in the harts
Of the first Parents all the rules of good,
So that their skill enfusde did passe all Arts
That euer were, before, or since the Flood;

And when their reasons eye was sharpe and cleere,
And (as an Eagle can behold the Sunne,)
Could haue approacht th'eternall light as neere,
As th'intellectuall Angels could haue done;

Euen then, to them the *Spirit of lies* suggests,
That they were blind, because they saw not Ill:
And breathes into their incorrupted breasts,
A curious *wish*, which did corrupt their *will*.

For that same Ill they straight desir'd to know:
Which Ill being nought but a defect of good,
In all Gods workes the Diuine could not show,
While Man their Lord in his perfection stood:

NOSCE TE IPSVM.

So that themselves were first to do the Ill,
Ere they thereof the knowledge could attaine;
Like him, that knew not poisons power to kill,
Vntill (by tasting it) him selfe was slaine.

Even so by tasting of that Fruite forbid,
Where they sought *knowledge*, they did *error* find,
Ill they desir'd to know, and Ill they did;
And to giue *Passion* eyes, made *Reason* blind.

For then their minds did first in passion see
Those wretched shapes, of *Miserie* and *VVoe*,
Of *Nakednesse*, of *Shame*, of *Pouertie*,
Which then their owne experience made the know.

But then grew *Reason* darke, that *she* no more
Could the faire Formes of *God* and *Truth* discern;
Battes they became, that *Eagles* were before,
And this they got by their *desire to learne*.

But we their wretched Offspring, what do we?
Do not we still tast of the fruite forbid?
VWhiles with fond, fruitelesse curiositie,
In bookes prophane we seeke for knowledge hid?

What is this *knowledge*? but the Skie-stolne fire,
For which the *Thiefe* still chaind in Ice doth sit?
And which the poore rude *Satyre* did admire,
And needs would kisse, but burnt his lips with it?

What

NOSCE TE IPSVM.

What is it? but the cloud emptie of Raine,
Which when *Ioues* Guest embrac't, he Monsters got?
Or the false *Pailles*, which oft being filld with paine,
Receiu'd the water, but retain'd it not?

Shortly what is it? but the fierie Coach,
Which the *Routh* sought, & fought his death withall?
Or the *Boyes* wings, which when he did approach
The *Sunnes* hote beames, did melt and let him fall?

And yet, alas, when all our Lampes are burnd,
Our Bodies wasted, and our Spirits spent;
VVhen we haue all the learned *volumes* turnd,
VVhich yeeld mens wits both helpe and ornament;

VVhat can we know? or what can we discerne?
VVhen *Error* chokes the windowes of the mind;
The diuerse formes of things, how can we learne,
That haue bene euer from our birth-day blind?

VVhen *Reasons* lampe which (like the *Sunne* in skie)
Throughout *Mans* litle world her beams did sprea
Is now become a Sparkle, which doth lie
Vnder the *Ashes*, halfe extinct, and dead;

How can we hope, that through the Eye and Eare,
This dying Sparkle, in this cloudie place;
Can recollect those beames of knowledge cleare,
VVhich were ensul'd in the first minds by grace?

NOSCE TEIPSVM.

So might the heire, whose father hath in play,
Wasted a thousand pounds of ancient rent,
By painfull earning of one grote a day,
Hope to restore the patrimonie spent.

The wits that diu'd most deepe, and soar'd most hie;
Seeking Mans powers, haue found his weaknes such:
" Skill comes so slow, and life so fast doth flie,
" We learne so litle, and forget so much.

For this the wisest of all Mortall men
Said, *he knew nought, but that he nought did know:*
And the great mocking Maister mockt not then,
When he said, *Truth was buried deepe below.*

For how may we to others things attaine,
When none of vs his owne Soule vnderstands?
For which the Diuell mockes our curious braine,
When *know thy selfe* his oracle commands.

For why should we the busie Soule beleue,
When boldly she concludes of that, and this,
When of her selfe she can no iudgement geue,
Nor how, nor whence, nor where, nor what she is?

All things without, which round about we see,
We seeke to know, and haue therewith to do:
But that whereby we *reason, liue, and be,*
Within our selues, we strangers are thereto.

We

NOSCE TEIPSVM.

We seeke to know the mouing of each spheare,
And the strange cause of th'ebbs and flouds of Nile:
But of that clocke within our breasts we beare,
The subtrill motions we forget the while.

We that acquaint our selues with euery *Zoane*,
And passe both *Tropikes*, and behold the *Poles*,
When we come home, are to our selues vnknowne,
And vnacquainted still with our owne *Soules*.

We studie *Speech*, but others we perswade;
We *Leechcraft* learne, but others Cure with it;
We interpret *Lanes*, which other men haue made;
But reade not those, which in our harts are writ.

Is it because the minde is like the eye,
(Through which it gathers knowledge by degrees,) Whose rayes reflect not, but spread outwardly,
Not seeing it selfe, when other things it sees?

No doubtlesse, for the minde can backward cast
Vpon her selfe, her vnderstanding light;
But she is so corrupt, and so defac't,
As her owne image doth her selfe affright.

As is the fable of that Ladie faire,
Vvhich for her lust was turnd into a Cow,
Vvhen thirstie to a streame she did repaire,
And saw her selfe transformd, she wist not how.

At first she startles, then she stands amaz'd,
 At last with terror she from thence doth flie,
 And loathes the watrie glasse wherein she gaz'd,
 And shunneth it still, though she for thirst do die.

Euen so *Mans soule* which did Gods Image beare,
 And was at first faire, good, and spotlesse pure,
 Since with her *sinnes* her beauties blotted were,
 Doth of all sights her owne sight least endure.

For euen at first reflection she espies,
 Such strange *Chymeræes*, and such Monsters there,
 Such Toyes, such *Antikes*, and such Vanities,
 As she retires, and shrinks for shame and feare;

And as the man loues least at home to bee,
 That hath a fluttish house, haunted with *Sprites*,
 So she impatient her owne faults to see,
 Turnes from her selfe, and in strange things delites.

For this few *know themselves*: for merchants broke
 View their estate with discontent, and paine;
 And *Seas* are troubled when they do reuoke
 Their flowing waues, into themselves againe.

And while the face of outward things we find,
 Pleasing, and faire, agreable, and sweete;
 These things transport, and carrie out the mind,
 That with her selfe her selfe can neuer meete.

Yet

Yet if *Affliction* once her warres begin,
And threat the feeble *Sense* with sword and fire,
The *Mind* contracts her selfe, and shrinketh in;
And to her selfe she gladly doth retire;

As *Spiders* toucht, seeke their webs inmost part:
As *Bees* in stormes vnto their hives returne:
As Bloud in danger gathers to the hart;
As Men seeke Towns when foes the Country burne.

Ifought can teach vs ought, *Afflictions* lookes,
(Making vs looke into our selues so neare)
Teach vs to *know our selues*, beyond all bookes,
Or all the learned *Schooles* that euer were.

This *Mistresse* lately pluckt me by the Eare,
And many a golden lesson hath me taught;
Hath made my *Senses* quicke, and Reason cleare,
Reformd my VVill, and rectified my Thought;

So do the *VVinds* and *Thunders* cleanse the Aire,
So working Seas settle and purge the wine;
Solopt and pruned Trees do flourish faire;
So doth the fire the droffie Gold refine.

Neither *Minerva*, nor the learned *Muse*,
Nor Rules of *Art*, nor *Precepts* of the wise,
Could in my braine those beames of skill enurse,
As but the glaunce of this *Dames* angrie eyes,

She within *Liftes* my raunging minde hath brought;
 That now beyond my selfe I list not go;
 My selfe am *Center* of my circling thought,
 Onely *my selfe* I studie, learne, and know.

I know my Bodi's of so fraile a kinde,
 As force without, feauers within can kill;
 I know the heauenly nature of my minde,
 But tis corrupted, both in *wit* and *will*:

I know my *Soule* hath power to know all things,
 Yet is the blind and ignorant in all;
 I know I am one of *Natures* litle kings,
 Yet to the least and vilest things am thrall.

I know my life's a paine, and but a span;
 I know my *Sense* is mockt with euery thing;
 And to conclude, I know my selfe a *Man*,
 Which is a *proud* and yet a *wretched* thing.

Of the Soule of man, and the im-
mortalitie thereof.

THe lights of beaultie (which are the worlds faire eyes)
Looke downe into the world; the world to see,
And as they turne, or wander in the skies,
Suruey all things, that on this *Center* bee.

And yet the *lights* which in my *towne* do shine,
Mine *Eyes*, which view all objects, nigh and farre,
Looke not into this litle world of mine,
Nor see my face, wherein they fixed are.

Since *Nature* failes vs in no needfull thing,
Why want I meanes, mine inward selfe to see?
Which sight, the knowledge of my self might bring,
Which to true wisdome is the first degree.

That *Powre*, which gaue me eyes the world to view,
To view my selfe, enfus'd an *inward light*,
Whereby my *Soule*, as by a Mirror true,
Of her owne forme may take a perfect sight.

But as the sharpest *eye* discerneth nought,
Except the *Sunne*-beames in the Aire do shine;
So the best *Soule*, with her reflecting thought,
Sees not her selfe, without some light diuine.

O *Light* which mak'st the *Light*, which makes the *Day*,
Which set'st the *Eye* without, and *Mind* within,
Lighten my spirit with one cleare heavenly ray,
Which now to view it selfe doth first begin.

For her true forme how can my Sparke discern?
Which dimme by *Nature*, *Art* did neuer cleere;
When the great *Wits*, of whom all skill we learne,
Are ignorant both *what* she is, and *where*?

One thinks the *Soule* is *Aire*, another *Fire*,
Another, *bloud* defus'd about the hart;
Another saith, the *Elements* conspire,
And to her *Essence* each doth giue a part.

Musicians thinke our *Soules* are *Harmonies*;
Physitions hold, that they *Complexions* bee;
Epicures make them swarmes of *Atomies*,
Which do by chance into our Bodies flee.

Some thinke one generall *Soule* fils euery braine,
As the bright *Sunne* sheds light in euery Starre;
And others thinke the name of *Soule* is vaine,
And that we onely *well mixt* bodies are.

In iudgement of her *substance* thus they varie:
And thus they varie in iudgement of her *seate*:
For some her *Chaire* vp to the braine do carrie,
Some thrust it downe into the *stomakes* heate;

Some

Some place it in the Roote of life, the *Hart*,
Some in the *Liver*, fountaine of the Vaines;
Some say, *she is all in all, and all in part*:
Some say, she is not containd, but all contains.

Thus these great Clerks their litle wisdom show,
While with their Doctrines they at *Hazard* play,
Tossing their light opinions to and fro,
To mocke the *Lewd*, as learn'd in this as they.

For no craz'd braine could euer yet propound,
Touching the *Soule* so vaine and fond a thought,
But some among these Maisters haue bene found,
Which in their *Schools* the selfe same thing haue
(taught).

God onely wise, to punish pride of Wit,
Among mens wits hath this confusion wrought,
As the proud *Towre* whose points the clouds did hit,
By Tongues confusion was to ruine brought.

But (*thou*) which didst *Mans-soule* of nothing make,
And when to nothing it was fallen agen,
To make it new, the Forme of Man didst take,
And *God* with *God* becam'st a *Man* with Men;

Thou, that hast fashioned twise this *Soule* of ours,
So that she is by double tittle thine,
Thou onely knowest her nature and her powers,
Her subtile forme thou onely canst define.

To iudge her selfe, she must her selfe transcend,
 As greater Circles comprehend the lesse;
 But she wants powre, her owne powres to extend,
 As settred Men, can not their strength expresse.

But thou bright morning Starre, thou rising *Sunne*,
 Which in these later times hast brought to light
 Those mysteries, that since the world begun,
 Lay hid in darknesse, and eternall night;

Thou (*like the Sunne*) dost with indifferent ray
 Into the *Pallace* and the *Cottage* shine,
 And shew'st the *Soule*, both to the *Clarke* and lay,
 By the cleare *Lampe* of thy *Oracle* diuine.

This *Lampe* through all the Regions of my braine,
 Where my *Soule* sits, doth spread such beames of
 As now, me thinks, I do distinguish plaine, (grace
 Each subtill line of her immortall face.

What the
 Soule is.

The soule a substance, and a spirit is,
 Which *God* himselfe doth in the Bodie make;
 Which makes the *Man*; for euery Man from this
 The *nature* of a *Man*, and *name* doth take.

And though this Spirit be to the Bodie knit,
 As an apt meane her powers to exercise,
 Which are, *life, motion, sense, and will, and wit*,
 Yet she *suruiues*, although the Bodie *dies*.

She

- She is a substance, and a reall thing;*
 1 Which hath it selfe an actual working might,
 2 Which neither from the *Senses* power doth spring,
 3 Nor from the Bodies humors tempered right.

That the
 Soule is a
 thing substi-
 tuting by it
 selfe without
 the Bodie.

She is a *Vine*, which doth no propping need,
 To make her spread her selfe, or spring vpright;
 She is a *Starre*, whose beames do not proceed
 From any *Sunne*, but from a *native* light.

For when she sorts things *present* with things *past*,
 And thereby things *to come* doth oft foresee;
 When she doth *doubt* at first, and *chooseth* at last,
 These acts her owne, without the Bodie, be.

I
 That the
 Soule hath a
 proper ope-
 ration with-
 out the Bo-
 die.

When of the dew, which the *eye* and *ear* do take
 From flowers abroad, and bring into the braine,
 She doth within both waxe and hony make,
 This worke is hers, this is her proper paine.

When she from sundry Acts, one skill doth draw,
 Gathring from diuerse fights one Art of warre,
 From many Cases like, one Rule of law;
 These her Collections, not the *Senses* are.

When in th'effects she doth the Causes know, (rise;
 And seeing the streame, thinks where the spring doth
 And seeing the branch, conceiues the roote below;
 These things she views without the Bodies eyes.

When she without a *Pegasus* doth flie
 Swifter then lightnings fire from *East* to *West*,
 About the *Center*, and about the *skie*,
 She trauels then, although the bodie rest.

When all her works she formeth first within,
 Proportions them, and sees their perfect end,
 Ere she in act doth any part begin:
 What instruments doth then the body lend?

When without hands she thus doth *Castels* build,
 Sees without eyes, and without feete doth runne,
 When she digests the *World*, yet is not filld,
 By her owne power these miracles are done.

When she defines, argues, deuides, compounds,
 Considers *vertue*, *vice*, and *generall things*,
 And marrying diuerse principles and grounds,
 Out of their match a true Conclusion brings;

These Actions in her Closet all alone,
 (Retir'd within her selfe) she doth fulfill;
 Vse of her bodies Organs she hath none,
 When she doth vse the powers of Wit and Will.

Yet in the Bodies prison so she lyes,
 As through the bodies windowes she must looke,
 Her diuerse powers of *Sense* to exercise,
 By gathering Notes out of the *Worlds* great Booke.

Nor

Nor can her selfe discourse, or iudge of ought,
But what the *sense* Collects and home doth bring;
And yet the power of her discoursing thought,
From these Collections, is a Diuerse thing.

For though our eyes can nought but Colours see,
Yet colours giue them not their powre of sight:
So, though these fruites of *sense* her obiects bee,
Yet she discernes them by her proper light.

The workman on his stuffe his skill doth shew,
And yet the stuffe giues not the man his skill;
Kings their affaires do by their seruants know,
But order them by their owne royall will.

So though this cunning Mistresse and this Queene,
Doth as her instruments the *Senses* vse,
To know all things that are *felt*, *heard*, or *seene*,
Yet she her selfe doth onely *iudge* and *choose*.

Euèn as our great wife *Empresse*, that now raignes,
By *soveraigne* title ouer fundrie lands,
Borrowes in meane affaires her *subiects* paines,
Sees by their eyes, and *writeth* by their hands;

But things of waight and consequence indeed,
Her selfe doth in her chamber them debate,
Where all her Counsellors she doth exceed
As farre in iudgement, as she doth in state.

Or as the man whom she doth now aduaunce,
Vpon her gracious *mercie seate* to sit,
Doth common things of course and circumstance,
To the Reports of common men commit:

But when the Cause it selfe must be decreed,
Himselfe in person in his proper Court,
To graue and solemne hearing doth proceed,
Of euery prooffe, and euery by-report:

Then like Gods Angell he pronounceth right,
And milke and honie from his tongue do flow:
Happie are they that still are in his sight,
To reape the wisdome which his lips do sow:

Right so the *Soule*, which is a Ladie free,
And doth the iustice of her *State* maintaine,
Because the *Senses* readie seruants bee,
Attending nigh about her Court, the braine:

By them the formes of outward things she leames,
For they returne into the fantasie,
What euer each of them abroad discernes,
And there enroll it for the mind to see.

But when she sits to iudge the good and Ill,
And to discern betwixt the false and true,
She is not guided by the *Senses* skill,
But doth each thing in her owne Mirror view.

Then



2

Then she the *Senses* checks, which oft do erre,
 And euen against their false reports decrees;
 And oft she doth condemne, what they preferre;
 For with a powre about the *Sense*, she sees:

Therefore no *Sense* the precious ioyes conceiues,
 Which in her priuate Contemplations bee;
 For then the ravisht spirit the *Senses* leaues,
 Hath her owne powers, and proper actions free.

Her harmonies are sweete, and full of skill,
 When on the bodies instrument she playes:
 But the proportions of the *wit* and *will*,
 Those sweete accords, are euen the Angels layes.

These tunes of *Reason*, are *Amphyons* lyre,
 Wherewith he did the *Thebane* Citie found,
 These are the notes, wherewith the heaueonly *Quire*
 The praise of him, which spreads the heaue, doth sound

Then her *selfe being Nature* shines in this,
 That she performes her noblest works alone;
 " The worke the Touchstone of the *nature* is,
 " And by their operations things are knowne.

Are they not *senslesse* then, that thinke the soule
 Nought but a fine perfection of the *Sense*,
 Or of the formes which *fancie* doth enrolle,
 A quicke resulting and a consequence?

D

2
 That the
 soule is more
 then a per-
 fection or re-
 flection of
 the sense.

What is it then, that doth the *Sense* accuse,
 Both of false iudgements, and fond appetises?
 Which makes vs do what *Sense* doth most refuse?
 Which oft in torment of the *Sense* delights?

Sense thinks the *Planets* *sphaeres* not much afunder:
 What tels vs then their distance is so farre?
Sense thinks the lightning borne before the thunder:
 What tels vs then they both together are?

When Men seeme Crowes farre off vpon a Towre,
Sense saith, th'are crows, what makes vs think the mē?
 When we in *Agnes* thinke all sweete things sowre,
 What makes vs know our tongs false iudgemēt the?

What powre was that, whereby *Medea* saw,
 And well approu'd, and praisd, the better course,
 When her rebellious *Sense* did so withdraw
 Her feeble powres, as she pursu'd the worse?

Did *Sense* perswade *Vlysses* not to heare,
 The Mermaids songs, which so his men did please,
 As they were all perswaded through the eare
 To quit the ship, and leape into the seas?

Could any powre of *Sense* the *Romane* moue,
 To burne his owne right hand, with courage sto
 Could *Sense* make *Marino* sit vnbound, and proue
 The cruell launcing of the knottie gout?

Doubtlesse

Doubtlesse in *Man* there is a *nature* found;
 Beside the *Senses*, and about them farre;
 " Though most mē being in sensuall pleasures drownd,
 " It seemes their *Soules* but in the *Senses* are.

If we had nought but *Sense*, then onely they
 Should haue found minds, which haue their *senses* found;
 But *wisedome* growes, when *senses* do decay,
 And *folly* most in quickest *sense* is found.

If we had nought but *senses*, each liuing wight,
 Which we call *brute*, would be more sharpe thē wee;
 As hauing *Senses apprehensiuē might*,
 In a more cleare, and excellent degree.

But they do want that *quicke discoursing power*,
 Which doth in vs the erring *sense* correct;
 Therefore the *Bee* did sucke the painted flower,
 And *birds* of grapes the cunning shadow peckt.

Sense outsidēs knowes, the *Soule* through all things fees,
Sense Circumstance, she doth the *substance* view;
Sense fees the barke, but she the life of trees;
Sense heares the sounds, but she the *Concords* true.

But why do I the *Soule* and *Sense* deuide?
 When *Sense* is but a powre, which she extends;
 Which being in diuerse parts diuersified,
 The diuerse formes of objects apprehends?

This power spreads outward, but the roote doth grow
 In th'inward *Soule*, which onely doth perceiue;
 For th'*eyes* and *eares* no more their obiects know,
 Then glasses know what faces they receiue.

For if we chance to fixe our thoughts elsewhere,
 Although our eyes be ope, we do not see,
 And if one power did not both see and heare,
 Our sights and sounds would alwayes double bee.

Then is the *Soule* a nature, which containes,
 The powre of *Sense*, within a greater powre;
 Which doth employ and vse the *Senses* paines,
 But sits and rules within her priuate bowre.

3
 That the
 soule is more
 then the te-
 perature of
 the humors
 of the body.

If she doth then the subtill *Sense* excell,
 How grosse are they that drowne her in the blood?
 Or in the bodies humours tempred well,
 As if in them such high perfection stood?

As if most skill in that *Musitian* were,
 Which had the best, and best run'd instrument;
 As if the Pensill neate, and Colours cleere,
 Had powre to make the Painter excellent.

Why doth not Beautie then refine the wit?
 And good Complexion rectifie the will?
 Why doth not Health bring wisdom still with it?
 Why doth not Sicknesse make men brutish still?

Who

Who can in *Memorie*, or *wit*, or *will*,
Or *aire*, or *fire*, or *earth*, or *water* find;
What Alchymist can draw with all his skill,
The *Quintessence* of these out of the mind?

If th'*Elements* which haue nor *life*, nor *sense*,
Can breed in vs so great a powre as this,
Why giue they not themselues like excellence,
Or other things wherein their mixture is?

If she were but the bodies qualitie,
Then would she be, with it *sicke*, *maimd* and *blind*;
But we perceiue, where these priuations bee,
A *healthie*, *perfect*, and *sharpe sighted* mind.

If she the bodies nature did partake,
Her strength would with the bodies strength decay;
But when the bodies strongest sinewes slake,
Then is the *Soule* most active, quicke, and gay.

If she were but the bodies accident,
And her sole *being* did in it subsist,
As *white in snow*, she might her selfe absent,
And in the bodies Substance not be mist.

But *it* on *her*, not *she* on *it* depends;
For *she* the body doth sustaine and cherish,
Such secret powers of life to it she lends,
That when they faile, then doth the body perish.

Since then the *Soule* workes by her selfe alone;
Springs not from sense, nor *humours* well agreeing,
 Her nature is peculiar, and her owne,
 She is a *substance*, and a *perfect being*.

That the
 soule is a
 spirit,

But though this substance be the roote of *sense*,
Sense knowes her not, which doth but *bodies* know;
 She is a *spirit*, and a heavenly Influence,
 Which from the fountaine of Gods spirit doth flow.

She is a spirit, yet not like *aire*, or *wind*,
 Nor like the *spirits* about the *heart* or *braine*,
 Nor like those spirits which Alchymists do find,
 When they in euery thing seeke gold in *vaine*.

For she all *natures* vnder heauen doth passe;
 Being like those spirits, which Gods bright face do
 Or like *himselfe*, whose *image* once she was, (see,
 Though now (alas) the scarce his *shadow* bee.

Yet of the *formes* she holds the first degree,
 That are to grosse materiall bodies knit;
 Yet she her selfe is *bodiless* and free,
 And though confin'd, is almost infinit.

That it can
 not be a bo-
 die.

Were she a *bodie*, how could she remaine
 Within this bodie, which is lesse then she?
 Or how could she the worlds great shape containe,
 And in our narrow breasts contained be?

All

All *bodies* are confin'd within some place;
But *she* all place within her selfe confines;
All *bodies* haue their measure, and their space;
But who can draw the *Soules* dimensionelines?

No *bodie* can at once two formes admit,
Except the one the other do deface;
But in the *Soule* ten thousand formes do sit,
And none intrudes into her neighbours place.

All *bodies* are with other bodies filld;
But *she* receiues both heauen and earth together,
Nor are their formes by rash incounter spild,
For there they stand, and neither toucheth ether.

Nor can her wide Embracements filled bee;
For they that most, and greatest things embrace,
Enlarge thereby their minds Capacitie,
As streames enlarg'd, enlarge the Channels space.

All things receiu'd, do such proportion take,
As those things haue wherein they are receiu'd:
So litle glasses litle faces make,
And narrow webs on narrow frames be weau'd;

Then what vast body must we make the *mind*?
Wherein are men, beasts, trees, towns, seas, & lands,
And yet each thing a proper place doth find,
And each thing in the true proportion stands?

Doubtlesse this could not be, but that she turnes
 Bodies to spirits by *sublimation* strange;
 As fire conuerts to fire the things it burnes,
 As we our meates into our nature change.

From their grosse *matter* she abstracts the *formes*,
 And drawes a kind of *Quintessence* from things,
 Which to her proper nature she transformes,
 To beare them light on her celestiall wings;

This doth she, when from things *particular*,
 She doth abstract the *uniuersall kinds*,
 Which bodilesse, and immateriall are,
 And can be lodg'd but onely in our minds;

And thus from diuerse *accidents* and *acts*,
 Which do within her obseruation fall,
 She goddesses, and powres diuine abstracts,
 As *Nature*, *fortune*, and the *vertues* all.

Againe, how can she seuerall *bodies* know,
 If in her selfe a *bodies forme* she beare?
 How can a Mirror sundrie faces show,
 If from all shapes and formes it be not cleare?

Nor could we by our eyes all colours learne,
 Except our eyes were of all colours voide;
 Nor sundry tafts can any tongue discern,
 Which is with grosse, and bitter humours cloide.

Nor

Nor may a man of *passions* iudge aright;
Except his mind be from all *passions* free;
Nor can a *Iudge* his office well acquite,
If he possesse of either partie bee.

If lastly this quicke powre a bodie were,
Were it as swift as is the *wind*, or *fire*,
(Whose *Atomies* do th'one downe side-ways beare,
And make the other in *Pyramids* aspire,)

Her nimble body yet in *time* must moue,
And not in instants through all places slide;
But she is nigh, and farre, beneath, above,
In point of time, which thought can not deuide.

Sh's sent as soone to *China*, as to *Spaine*,
And thence returnes, as soone as she is sent;
She measures with one time, and with one paine,
An ell of Silke, and heauens wide spreading Tent;

As then the *Soule* a substance hath alone,
Besides the body, in which she is confin'd;
So hath she not a *bodie* of her owne,
But is a *spirit*, and *immateriall mind*.

Since *bodie* and *soule* haue such diuersities,
Well might we muse, how first their match began;
But that we learne, that *he* that spread the skies,
And fixt the earth, first formd the *Soule* in man.

That the
Soule is
created im-
mediatly by
God.
Zach. 12. 1.

This true *Prometheus* first made man of earth;
 And shed in him a beame of heauenly Fire;
 Now in their mothers wombes before their birth,
 Doth in all sonnes of men their *Soules* inspire.

And as *Minerua* is in fables said,
 From *Ioue* without a mother to proceed;
 So our true *Ioue* without a mothers aide,
 Doth daily millions of *Mineruaes* breed.

Erronious o-
 pinions of the
 creation of
 soules.

Then neither from eternitie before,
 Nor from the time, when *Times* first point begun,
 Made he all *Soules*, which now he keeps in store,
 Some in the Moone, and others in the Sunne;

Nor in a *secret cloister* doth he keepe
 These virgin spirits, vntill their mariage day;
 Nor locks them vp in Chambers, where they sleepe,
 Till they awake, within these beds of Clay;

Nor did he first a certaine number make,
 Infusing part in *beasts*, and part in *men*,
 And as vnwilling farther paines to take,
 Would make no more, then those he framed then;

So that the widow *Soule*, her *bodie* dying,
 Vnto the next borne *bodie* married was,
 And so by often changing, and supplying,
 Mens *soules* to *beasts*, and *beasts* to men did passe.
 (These

(These thoughts are fond: for since the bodies borne
Be more in number farre, then those that die,
Thoufands must be abortiue, and forlorne,
Ere others deaths to them their *soules* supply.)

But as *Gods handmayde Nature* doth create
Bodies, in time distinct, and order due;
So God giues *soules* the like successiue date,
VWhich *himselfe* makes, in bodies formed new.

VWhich *himselfe* makes, of no materiall thing;
For vnto Angels he no power hath giuen,
Either to forme the shape, or stufte to bring,
From *aire*, or *fire*, or *substance of the heauen*.

Nor he in this doth *Natures* seruice vse;
For though from bodies she can bodies bring;
Yet could she neuer *soules* from *soules* *traduce*,
As fire from fire, or light from light doth spring.

That the
Soule is not
traduced frō
the parents.

Alas, that some that were great lights of old,
And in their hands the *lampe* of God did beare,
Some reuerend Fathers did this error hold,
Hauing their eyes dim'd with religious feare!

For when (say they) by rule of faith we find,
That euery *soule* vnto her *bodie* knit,
Brings from the mothers wombe, the *sinne of kind*,
The roote of all the ill she doth commit;

How can we say, that God the *Soule* doth make,
 But we must make him author of her sinne?
 Then from mans soule she doth beginning take,
 Since in mans soule Corruption did begin.

For if God make her, first he makes her ill,
 (Which God forbid our thoughts should yeeld vnto)
 Or makes the body her faire forme to spill,
 Which of it selfe it had no powre to do.

Not *Adams bodie*, but his *soule* did sinne,
 And so her selfe vnto corruption brought;
 But our poore *Soule* corrupted is within,
 Ere she hath sinn'd, either in act, or thought;

And yet we see in her such powres diuine,
 As we could gladly thinke, *from God she came*;
 Faine would we make him author of the wine,
 If for the dregs we could some other blame.

The answer
 to the obie-
 ction.

Thus these good men, with holy zeale were blind;
 When on the other part the truth did shine,
 Whereof we do cleare demonstrations find,
 By light of *nature*, and by light *deuine*.

None are so grosse, as to contend for this,
 That soules from bodies may traduced bee;
 Betweene whose natures no proportion is,
 When roote and branch in nature still agree;

But

But many subtil wits haue iustifi'd,
 That *Soules* from *Soules* spiritually may spring;
 Which (if the nature of the *Soule* be try'd)
 Will euen in nature proue as grosse a thing.

For all things made, are either made of nought,
 Or made of stuffe that ready made doth stand;
 Of nought no creature euer formed ought,
 For that is proper to th'Almighties hand.

Reasons
 drawne from
 Nature.

If then the *Soule* another *Soule* do make,
 Because her power is kept within a bound,
 She must some former stuffe or *matter* take;
 But in the *Soule* there is no *matter* found.

Then if her heavenly Forme do not agree
 With any *matter*, which the world containes,
 Then she of nothing must created bee,
 And to *create*, to God alone pertaines.

Againe, if *soules* do other *soules* beget,
 Tis by themselves, or by the bodies powre;
 If by themselves, what doth their working let,
 But they might *soules* engender euery houre?

If by the body, how can *wit* and *will*
 Ioyne with the body onely in this act?
 Since when they do their other works fulfill,
 They from the body do themselves *abstract*?

Againe, if *Soules* of *Soules* begotten were,
Into each other they should change, and moue;
And *change* and *motion* still *corruption* beare;
How shall we then the *Soule* immortall proue?

If lastly *Soules* did generation vse,
Then should they spread incorruptible seed?
What then becomes of that which they do loose,
When th'acts of generation do not speed?

And though the *Soule* could cast spirituall seed,
Yet would she not, because she *neuer* dies;
For mortall things desire their *like* to breed,
That so they may their kind immortalize.

Therefore the Angels, sonnes of God are nam'd,
And marrie not, nor are in mariage giuen,
Their spirits and ours are of one *substance* fram'd,
And haue one Father, even the *Lord of heauen*;

Who would at first, that in each other thing,
The *earth*, and *water* liuing *soules* should breed;
But that *Mans soule*, whom he wold make their king,
Should from himselfe immediatly proceed.

And when he tooke the *woman* from *mans* side,
Doubtlesse himselfe inspir'd her *soule* alone:
For tis not sayd, he did *mans soule* deuide,
But tooke *flesh of his flesh, bone of his bone*.

Lastly

Lastly God, being made Man for Mans owne sake,
And being like Man in all, except in Sinne,
His Bodie from the *Virgins* wombe did take;
But all agree, *God form'd his soule within*.

Then is the *Soule* from God; so *Pagans* say,
Which saw by natures light, her heavenly kind,
Naming her *kin to God*, and *Gods bright ray*,
A Citizen of heauen, to earth confin'd.

But now I feele, they plucke me by the eare,
Whom my young *Muse* so boldly termed blind,
And craue more heavenly light, that cloud to cleare,
Which makes them thinke, God doth not make the
(mind.

God doubtlesse makes her, and doth make her good,
And graffes her in the body, there to spring,
Which though it be corrupted, flesh and bloud
Can no way to the *Soule* corruption bring;

Reasons
drawne from
diuinitie.

And yet this *Soule* (made good by God at first,
And not corrupted by the Bodies ill)
Euen in the Wombe is sinfull, and accurst,
Ere she can Iudge by wit, or choose by will.

Yet is not God the Author of her Sinne,
Though Author of her *being*, and *being there*,
And if we dare to iudge our *Iudge* herein,
He can condemne vs, and himselfe can cleere.

First God from infinite eternitie

Decreed, what hath bene, is, or shall be done,
And was resolu'd; that euery Man should bee,
And in his turne, his race of life should runne.

And so did purpose all the *Soules* to make,
That euer *haue bene* made, or *euver shall*,
And that their *being* they should onely take,
In humane bodies, or not *be* at all.

Was it then fit, that such a weake euent,
(*VWeaknesse it selfe*, the sinne and fall of Man)
His Counsels execution should preuent,
Decreed and fixt before the world began?

Or that one *penall law* by *Adam* broke,
Should make God breake his owne *eternall law*,
The settled order of the world reuoke,
And change all formes of things, which he foresaw?

Could *Eyes* weake hand, extended to the tree,
In funder rent that *Adamantine chaine*,
Whose golden linkes *effects* and *causes* bee,
And which to Gods owne chaire doth fixt remaine?

O, could we see, how cause from cause doth spring!
How mutually they linckt and folded are!
And heare how oft one disagreeing string,
The harmonie doth rather make, then marre!

And

And view at once how *dark* by *dark* is brought;
And how from *dark* a better life doth rise;
How this Gods *justice*, and his *mercy* shone;
We this decree would praise, as right and wise.

But we that measure times by first and last;
The sight of things successively do take;
When God on all at once his view doth cast;
And of all times, doth but one *instant* make.

All in *him selfe* as in a *glasse* he sees;
For from *him*, by *him*, through *him*, all things be;
His sight is not discursive by degrees;
But seeing the whole, each single part doth see.

He looks on *Adam*, as a *roote*, or *well*;
And on his heires, as *branches*, and as *streames*;
He sees *all men* as *one man*, though they dwell
In sundry *Cities*, and in sundry *Realmes*;

And as the *roote* and *branch* are but one *tree*;
And *well* and *streame*, do but one *river* make;
So, if the *roote*, and *well* corrupted bee,
The *streame* and *branch* the same corruption take;

So when the *roote* and *fountain* of mankind
Did draw corruption, and Gods curse by *sinne*;
This was a charge, that all his heires did bind,
And all his of-spring grew corrupt therein.

And as when th' hand doth strike, the Man offends,
(For part from whole, law seuers not in this.)
 So Adams sinne to the whole kind extends,
 For all their Natures are but part of his.

Therefore this *sinne of kind*, not personall,
 But reall, and hereditarie was,
 The guilt whereof, and punishment to all,
 By course of Nature, and of Law doth passe.

For as that Easie law was giuen to all,
 To auncestor, and heire, to first, and last,
 So was the first transgression generall,
 And all did plucke the fruite, and all did tast.

Of this we find some footsteps in our Law,
 Which doth her Rootē from God and Nature take,
 Ten thousand Men she doth together draw,
 And of them All, one Corporation make;

Yet these and their Successors are but one,
 And if they gaine, or loose their liberties,
 They harne or profite not themselues alone,
 But such as in succeeding time shall rise.

And so the Auncestor, and all his heires,
 Though they in number passe the starres of heauen,
 Are still but one; his *forfeitures* are theirs,
 And vnto them are his *advancements* giuen,

His

NOSCE TEIPSVM

His Ciuill acts do bind and barre them all;
And as from *Adam* all corruption take,
So if the Fathers crime be *capital*,
In all the *blood*, law doth *corruption* make.

Is it then iust with vs, to disinherit
The vnborne Nephewes, for the Fathers fault?
And to aduance againe for one mans merit,
A thousand heires, that haue deserued nought?

And is not Gods decree as iust as ours,
If he for *Adams* sinne, his sonnes depriue
Of all those natie vertues, and those powres,
Which he to him and to his race did giue?

For what is this contagious sinne of kind,
But a priuation of that grace within?
And of that great rich dowrie of the mind,
Which all had had, but for the first mans sinne?

If then a man on light conditions gaine
A great estate, to him and his for euer,
If wilfully he forfeit it againe,
Who doth bemoane his heire? or blame the giuer?

So though God make the *Soule* good, rich and faire,
Yet when her forme is to the body knit,
Which makes the Man, which Man is *Adams* heire,
Iustly forthwith he takes his grace from it.

And then the *Soule*, being first from nothing brought,
 When Gods grace failes her, doth to nothing fall;
 And this declining *prosse* unto naught, I shall not
 Is euen that *sinne* that we are borne withall.

Yet not alone the first good qualities,
 Which in the first *Soule* were, depriv'd are,
 But in their place the contrarie do rise,
 And reall spots of sinne her beautie marre.

Nor is it strange, that *Adams* ill desert,
 Should be transferd unto his guiltie Race,
 When *Christ* his grace and iustice doth impart
 To men vniust, and such as haue no grace.

Lastly, the *Soule* w^{ill} be better so to bee,
 Borne slaue to *sinne*, then not to be at all,
 Since (if shee do beleue) one sets her free,
 That makes her mount the higher from her fall.

Yet this the curious wits will not content;
 They yet will know, (since God foresaw this ill)
 Why his high prouidence did not preuent,
 The *declination* of the first mans will.

If by his word he had the current stayd,
 Of *Adams* will, which was by nature free,
 It had bene one, as if his word had sayd,
 I will henceforth, that *Man no man* shall be,

For

For what is Man without a shouling mind,
Which hath a iudging will, and choosing will?
Now, if Gods power should her election bind,
Her motions then would cease, and stand all still.

And why did God in man this Soule infuse,
But that he should his maker know, and loue?
Now if loue be compeld, and cannot chuse,
How can it gratefull, or thank worthe proue?

Loue must free hearted be, and voluntarie,
And nor enchaunted, or by Fate constraind;
Not like that loue, which did *Vlysses* carie
To *Circes* Ile, with mightie charmes enchaind.

Besides, were we unchangeable in will,
And of a wit that nothing could misdeeme;
Equall to God, whose wisdom shined still,
And neuer erres, we might our felues esteeme.

So that if man would be unvariable,
He must be God, or like a Rocke, or Tree;
For euen the perfect Angels were not stable,
But had a fall, more desperate then we.

Then let vs praise that Power, which makes vs bee
Men as we are, and rest contented so;
And knowing mans fall was curiositie,
Admire Gods counsels, which we cannot know.

And let vs know that God the maker is
Of all the *Soules*, in all the men that bee,
Yet their Corruption is no fault of his,
But the first Mans, that broke Gods first decree.

Why the
soule is vni-
ted to the
bodie.

This substance and this *spirit* of Gods owne making,
Is in the bodie plac't, and planted here,
That both of God and of the world partaking,
Of all that is, man might the image beare.

God first made Angels bodiless pure minds,
Then other things, which mindlesse bodies bee;
Last he made man th' *Horizon* twixt both kinds,
In whom we do the worlds abridgement see.

Besides, this world below did need *one might*,
Which might thereof distinguish euerie part,
Make vse thereof, and take therein delight,
And order things with industrie, and Art.

Which also God might in his works admire,
And here beneath, yeeld him both prayer and praise,
As there, aboue, the holy Angels Quire
Doth spread his glorie, with spirituall layes.

Lastly, the brute vnreasonable wights,
Did want a *visible king* on them to raigne;
And God him selfe thus to the world vnites,
That so the world might endlesse blisse obtaine.

But how shall we this *union* well expresse?
 Nought eyes the *Soule*, her subtiltie is such;
 She moues the *body*, which she doth possesse,
 Yet no part toucheth, but by *vertues* touch.

In what man-
 ner the soule
 is vnited to
 the body.

Then dwels she northerin as in a tent,
 Nor as a Pilot in his Ship doth sit;
 Nor as a Spider in her Web is pent;
 Nor as the Waxe retaines the print in it;

Nor as a Vessell water doth containe;
 Nor as one Liquor in another shed;
 Nor as the heate doth in the fire remaine,
 Nor as a voyce throughout the aire is spred.

But as the faire, and cheerefull *morning light*,
 Doth here and there her siluer beames impart,
 And in an instant doth her selfe vnite
 To the transparent Aire, in all and part;

Still resting whole, when blowes the Aire deuide;
 Abiding pure, when th'Aire is most corrupted;
 Throughout the Aire her beames dispersing wide,
 And, when the Aire is tost, not interrupted;

So doth the piercing *Soule* the body fill,
 Being all in all, and all in part diffus'd
 Indiuisible, vncorruptible still,
 Not fore't, encountred, troubled, or confus'd.

Howe the
Soule doth
exercise her
powers in
the body.

And as the *Sunne* above the light doth bring,
Though we behold it in the *Aire* below;
So from this *eternal* light the *Soule* doth spring,
Though in the *Body* the her powers do shew.

Howe the
Soule doth
exercise her
powers in
the body.

But as the worlds *Sunne* doth effects beget,
Diuerse, in diuerse places every day;
Here *Autumnes* temperature, there *Summers* heat,
Here flowry *Spring* tide, and there *Winter* gray;

Here *Euē*, there *Morn*, here *Noon*, there *Day*, there night,
Melts wax, dries clay, makes floures some quick some
Makes the *Asiaticke* blacke, & the *European* white, & (dead;
Th' *American* tawny, and th' *East Indian* red:

So in our little world this *Soule* of ours,
Being onely one, and to one body tyed,
Doth vse on diuerse objects diuerse powers,
And so are her effects diuersified.

The vegeta-
rue or quic-
kening po-
wer.

Her quickning power in euery living part,
Doth as a Nurse, or as a Mother serue,
And doth employ her *economick* Art,
And bosome care, her houthold to preserve.

Here she *attracts*, and there she doth *retaine*,
There she *detaches*, and doth the food prepare,
There she *distributes* it to euery vaine,
There she *expels* what she may fitly spare.

This

This power to *Martha* may compared bee;
 Which busie was, the *houshold things* to do;
 Or to a *Dryas* liuing in a Tree,
 For euen to Trees this power is proper too.

And though the *Soule* may not this power extend
 Out of the Body, but still vse it there,
 She hath a power, which she abroad doth send,
 Which viewes and searcheth all things euery where,

This power is Sense, which from abroad doth bring
 The colour, *tast*; and *touch*, and *scent*, and *sound*,
 The *quantitie*, and *shape* of euery thing,
 Within th'earths Center, or heauens Circle found.

The power
 of Sense.

This power in parts made fit, fit objects takes,
 Yet not the things, but Formes of things receiues;
 As when a Seale in Waxe impression makes,
 The print therein, but not it selfe, it leaues.

And though things sensible be numberlesse,
 But onely five the *Senses* Organs bee;
 And in those five All things their Formes expresse,
 Which we can *touch*, *tast*, *feele*, or *heare*, or *see*.

These are the windowes, through the which she viewes
 The *light of knowledge* which is lifes load-starre;
 " And yet whiles she these spectacles doth vse,
 " Oft worldly things seeme greater then they are.

Sight.

First the two *Eyes*, which haue the *Seeing* power,
Stand as one watchman, Spie, or Sentinell,
Being plac'd aloft within the Heads high Tower;
And though both see, yet both but one thing tell.

These Mirrors take into their litle space,
The formes of *Moone* and *Sunne*, and euery *Starre*,
Of euery Body, and of euery place,
Which with the worlds wide Armes embraced are.

Yet their best obiect, and their noblest vse,
Hereafter in another world will bee,
When God in them shall heauenly light infuse,
That face to face they may their *Maker* see.

Here are they guides, which do the Body leade;
Which else would stumble in eternall night;
Here in this world they do much knowledge reade,
And are the Casements which admit most light:

They are her farthest reaching Instrument,
Yet they no beames vnto their Obiects send,
But all the rayes are from their Obiects sent,
And in the *Eyes* with pointed Angles end.

If th'obiects be farre off, the rayes do meete
In a sharpe point, and so things seeme but small;
If they be neare, their rayes do spread and fleete,
And make broad points, that things seeme great
(withall.

Lastly, Nine things to *Sight* required are,
 The *power* to see, the *light*, the *visible* thing;
 Being not too *small*, too *thinne*, too *nigh*, too *farre*,
Cleare space, and *time* the forme distinct to bring.

Thus see we how the *Soule* doth vse the Eyes,
 As instruments of her quicke power of sight;
 Hence do th' Arts *Optike*, and faire *painting* rise;
Painting which doth all gentle minds delight.

Now let vs heare how she the *Eares* employes;
 Their office is the troubled Aire to take,
 Which in their Mazes formes a sound or noise,
 Whereof her selfe doth true distinction make.

Hearing.

These wickets of the *Soule* are plac'd on hie,
 Because all sounds do lightly mount aloft;
 And that they may not pierce too violently,
 They are delayed with turnes and windings oft.

For should the voice directly strike the braine,
 It would astonish and confuse it much;
 Therefore these plaits and folds the sound restraine,
 That it the Organ may more gently touch.

As Streames, which with their winding banks do play,
 Stopt by their Creeks, run softly through the plaine;
 So in the Eares labrinth the voyce doth stray,
 And doth with easie motion touch the braine.

It is the slowest, yet the daintiest *Sense*,
 For euen the *eares* of such as haue no skill,
 Perceiue a discord, and conceiue Offence,
 And knowing not what is good, yet find the ill.

And though this *Sense* first gentle *Musike* found,
 Her proper object is *the speech of men*;
 But that speech chiefly, which Gods herralds found,
 When their Tongs vtter, what his Spirit did pen.

Our *Eyes* haue lids, our *Eares* still ope we see,
 Quickly to heare, how euery tale is proued;
 Our *Eyes* still moue, our *Eares* vn moued bee,
 That though we heare quicke, we be not quickly mo-
 (ued.

Thus by the Organs of the *Eye* and *Eare*,
 The *Soule* with knowledge doth her selfe endew;
 Thus she her prison may with pleasure beare,
 Hauing such prospects All the world to view.

These Conduit pipes of knowledge, feed the mind,
 But th'other three attend the Body still;
 For by their seruices the *Soule* doth find,
 What things are to the Body good, or ill.

Taste.

The Bodies life with meates and Aire is fed,
 Therefore the *Soule* doth vse the *tasting* power,
 In Veines, which through the Tong & Palate spred,
 Distinguish euery rellish, sweete, and sower.

This

This is the Bodies *Nurse*; but since mans wit
Found th'art of *Cookerie*, to delight his *Sense*,
More bodies are consum'd and kild with it,
Then with the sword, famine, or pestilence.

Next in the Nosthrils she doth vse the *smell*,
As God the *breath of life* in them did giue,
So makes he now his power in them to dwell,
To iudge all Aires, whereby we *breath* and *live*.

Smelling,

This *Sense* is also mistresse of an Art,
Which to soft people sweete perfumes doth sell:
Though this deare Art doth litle good impart,
“ Since they smell best, that do of nothing smell.

And yet good *sents* do purifie the braine,
Awake the Fancie, and the Wits refine;
Hence old *Devotion*, *Incense* did ordaine,
To make mens spirits more apt for thoughts diuine.

Lastly the Feeling power, which is Lifes roote,
Through euery liuing part it selfe doth shed,
By *sinewes* which extend from head to foote,
And like a Net all ore the body spread.

Feeling.

Much like a subtill Spider, which doth sit
In middle of her Web, which spreadeth wide,
If ought do touch the vtmost threed of it,
She feeles it instantly on euery side.

By *touch* the first pure qualities we learne,
 Which quicken all things *hote, cold, moyst, and drie;*
 By *touch, hard, soft, rough, smooth,* we do discern;
 By *touch, sweete pleasure, and sharpe paine* we trie.

These are the outward Instruments of *Sense;*
 These are the *Guards*, which euery thing must passe,
 Ere it approach the minds intelligence,
 Or touch the Phantasie, *wits looking glasse.*

The imagi-
 natio or cō-
 mon Sense.

And yet these Porters which all things admit,
 Them selues perceiue not, nor discern the things:
 One *Common* power doth in the forehead sit,
 Which all their proper formes together brings.

For all those *Nerues*, which *spirits of Sense* do beare,
 And to those outward Organs spreading go,
 Vnited are as in a Center there,
 And there this power those sundry forms doth know.

Those outward Organs present things receiue,
 This inward *Sense* doth absent things retaine;
 Yet straight transmits all formes she doth perceiue,
 Vnto a higher region of the *braine.*

The Phan-
 tasie.

Where *Phantasie*, neare handmaid to the mind,
 Sits, and beholds, and doth discern them all;
 Compounds in one, things diuerse in their kind;
 Compares the blacke and white, the great and small.
 Besides

Besides those single formes, she doth esteeme,
 And in her Ballance doth their values trie,
 Where some things good, & som things ill do seeme,
 And neutrall some in her *phantaſticke* eye.

This busie power is working day and night;
 For when the outward *Senses* rest do take,
 A thousand Dreames phantaſticall and light,
 With fluttering wings do keepe her still awake.

Yet alwayes all may not afore her bee;
 Successefully she this, and that intends;
 Therefore such formes as she doth cease to see,
 To *Memories* large volume she commends.

The sensa-
 tive memo-
 ric.

This *Lidger Booke* lyes in the braine behind,
 Like *Ianus* eye, which in his poll was set;
 The *Lay-mans Tables*, *Storehouse of the mind*,
 Which doth remember much, and much forget.

Here *Senses Apprehension* end doth take,
 As when a Stone is into water cast;
 One Circle doth another Circle make,
 Till the last circle touch the banke at last.

But though the *apprehensive power* do pawse,
 The *Motive* vertue then begins to moue,
 Which in the heart below doth *passions* cause,
Ioy, *griefe*, and *feare*, and *hope*, and *hate*, and *love*.

The passions
 of Sense.

These passions haue a free Commaunding might;
 And diuerse Actions in our life do breed;
 For all Acts done without true reasons light;
 Do from the passion of the *Sense* proceed.

But sith the *Braine* doth lodge these powers of *Sense*;
 How makes it in the heart those passions spring?
 The mutuall loue, the kind intelligence
 Twixt heart and braine, this *sympathy* doth bring.

From the kind heate, which in the heart doth raigne,
 The *spirits* of life do their beginning take;
 These *spirits* of life ascending to the braine,
 When they come there, the *spirits* of *Sense* do make.

These *spirits* of *Sense* in Phantasies high Court,
 Iudge of the formes of *Obiects* ill or well;
 And so they send a good or ill report,
 Downe to the hart, where all Affections dwell.

If the report be *good*, it causeth *loue*,
 And longing *hope*, and well assured *ioy*:
 If it be *ill*, then doth it *hatred* moue,
 And trembling *fear*, and vexing *griefes* annoy.

Yet were these naturall affections good;
 (For they which want them *blocks* or *diuels* be)
 If *reason* in her first perfection stood,
 That she might *Natures* passions rectifie.

Besides

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Besides, an other *Motive* power doth rise
Out of the hart: from whose pure bloud do spring,
The *vitall Spirits*, which borne in *Arteries*,
Continuall motion to all parts do bring.

The motion
of life.

This makes the pulses beate, and lungs respire,
This holds the sinewes like a bridles Raines,
And makes the body to aduance, retire,
To turne, or stop, as she them slacks, or straines.

The locall
motion.

Thus the *Soule* tunes the *bodies* Instrument;
These harmonies she makes with *life* and *sense*;
The organes fit are by the body lent,
But th'actions flow from the *Soules* influence.

But now I haue a *will*, yet want a *wit*,
To expresse the working of the *wit* and *will*,
Which though their roote be to the body knit,
Vse not the body, when they vse their skill.

The intelle-
tual powers
of the soule.

These powers the nature of the *Soule* declare,
For to mans *Soule* these onely proper bee;
For on the earth no other wights there are,
Which haue these heavenly powers, but onely wee.

The *wit*, the pupill of the *Soules* cleare eye,
And in mans world the onely shining *Starre*;
Lookes in the mirrour of the phantasie;
Where all the gatherings of the *senses* are.

The wit or
vnderstan-
ding.

NOSCE TEIPSVM

From thence this power the shapes of things abstracts;
And them within her *passive part* receiues;
Which are enlightned by that part which *acts*;
And so the formes of single things perceiues.

But after by discoursing to and fro;
Anticipating, and comparing things;
She doth all vniuersall natures know;
And all *effectes* into their *causes* brings.

Reason. When she *rates* things, & moues fro ground to ground;
The name of *Reason* she obtaines by this:
Vnderstanding. But when by reasons she the truth hath found;
And *standeth fixt*, she *vnderstanding* is.

Opinion. When her assent she *lightly* doth encline
To either part, she is *opinion light*:
Iudgement. But when she doth by principles define
A Certaine truth, she hath *true Iudgements* light.

And as from *Senses Reasons* worke doth spring;
So many *Reasons vnderstanding* gaine;
And many *vnderstandings, knowledge* bring;
And by much *knowledge, wisdom* we obtaine.

So, many staires we must ascend vpright;
Ere we attaine to *wisdomes* high degree;
So doth this earth eclipse our reasons light;
Which else (in instants) would like Angels see.

Ye.

Yet hath the *Soule* a dowrie naturall,
And *sparks of light* some common things to see;
Not being a *blanck*, where nought is writ at all,
But what the writer will may written bee:

For nature in mans harther lawes doth pen;
Prescribing *truth* to *wit*, and *good* to *will*;
Which do *accuse*, or else *excuse* all men,
For euery thought, or practise, good, or ill.

And yet these sparks grow almost infinite,
Making the world, and all therein their food;
As fire so spreads as no place holdeth it,
Being nourisht still, with new supplies of wood.

And though these sparks were almost quēcht with sin,
Yet they whom that *Iust one* hath Iustified;
Haue them encreasd, with heauenly light within,
And like the *widowes* oyle still multiplide.

And as this *wit* should goodnesse truly know,
We haue a *wit* which that true good should chuse;
Though *will* do oft, (when *wit* false formes doth
Take *ill* for *good*, and *good* for *ill* refuse. (show.)

The power
of will.

Will puts in practise what the *wit* deuifeth;
Will euer acts, and *wit* contemplates still,
And as from *wit* the power of *wisdome* riseth,
All other *vertues* daughters are of *will*.

The Rela-
tions be-
twixt *wit* &
will.

Will is the *Prince*, and *wit* the Counsellour;
Which doth for common good in Councell sit;
And when *wit* is resolu'd, *will* lends her power,
To execute, what is aduiz'd by *wit*.

Wit is the minds chief Iudge, which doth Comptroule
Of *fancies* Court the iudgements false and vaine;
Will holds the royall Scepter in the *Soule*,
And on the passions of the hart doth raigne.

Will is as Free as any Emperour;
Nought can restrainge her gentle libertie:
No Tyrant, nor no Torment hath the powre,
To make vs *will*, when we *unwilling* bee.

The intelle-
ctuall me-
morie.

To these high powers a Store-house doth pertaine,
Where they all Arts and generall Reasons lay,
Which in the *Soule*, euen after death remaine,
And no *Lethæan* Flud can wash away.

This is the *Soule*, and those her vertues bee,
Which though they haue their sundry proper ends,
And one exceeds another in degree,
Yet each on other mutually depends.

Our *wit* is giuen, *Almightie* God to know;
Our *will* is giuen to loue him being knowne;
But God could not be knowne to vs below,
But by his *works*, which through the *sense* are shewn;
And

And as the *wit* doth reape the fruits of *sense*,
So doth the *quickning* powre the *senses* feed;
Thus while they do their sundry gifts dispençe,
The best the seruice of the least doth need.

Euen so the King his Magistrats do serue;
Yet commons feede both Magistrate and King;
The cōmons peace the Magistrats preferue. (Spring.
By borrowed power, which from the Prince doth

The *quickning* power would *be*, and so would rest;
The *sense* would not *be* onely, but *be well*;
But *wits* ambition longeth to be *best*,
For it desires in endlesse blisse to dwell.

And these three powers three sorts of men do make;
For some like plants their veines do onely fill;
And some like beasts their senses pleasure take;
And some like Angels do Contemplate still.

Therefore the fables turnd some men to flowers,
And others did with brutish formes inuest,
And did of others make Celestiall powers,
Like Angels, which still trauell, yet still rest.

Yet these three powres are not three *Soules*, but one;
As one and two are both containd' in *three*,
Three being one number by it selfe alone;
A shadow of the blessed Trinitie.

An Acclamation.

O *what* is man (great maker of mankind)
That thou to him so great respect dost beare?
That thou adornst him with so bright a mind,
Mak'st him a king, and even an Angels peere?

O what a liuely life, what heauenly power,
What spreading vertue, what a sparkling Fire,
How great, how plentiful, how rich a dowe,
Do'st thou within this dying Fleth inspire!

Thou leau'st thy print in other workes of thine,
But thy whole image thou in man hast writ;
There cannot be a creature more diuine,
Except (like thee) it should be infinit.

But it exceeds mans thought, to think how high
God hath raizd *man*, since *God a man* became;
The Angels do admire this *mysterie*,
And are astonisht when they view the same.

That the
soule is im-
mortall, and
cannot dye.

Nor hath he giuen these blessings for a day,
Nor made them on the bodies life depend;
The *Soule*, though made in time, *suruiues for aye*,
And though it hath beginning, sees no end.

Her onely *end*, is *neuer ending blisse*;
Which is, *th' eternall Face of God to see*,
Who *last of ends*, and *first of causes is*,
And to do this, (he must *eternall bee*.)

How

How senselesse then and dead a *Soule* hath hee,
Which *thinks* his *Soule* doth with his body dye?
Or *thinks* not so, but so would haue it bee,
That he might sinne with more securitie?

For though these light and vicious persons *say*,
Our *Soule* is but a smoke, or ayery blast,
Which during life doth in our nostrils play,
And when we die, doth turne to wind at last;

Although they *say*, come, *let vs eate and drinke*,
Our life is but a sparke, which quickly dyes;
Though thus they *say*, they know not what to *thinke*,
But in their minds ten thousand doubts arise.

Therefore no heretikes desire to spread
Their light opinions, like these *Epicures*;
For so their staggering thoughts are comforted,
And other mens assent their doubt assures.

Yet though these men against their conscience strue,
There are some sparkles in their flintie breasts,
Which cannot be extinct, but still reuiue,
That though they would, they cannot quite be *brasts*.

But who so makes a mirror of his mind,
And doth with patience view himselfe therein,
His *Soules* eternitie shall clearly find,
Though th'other beauties be defac't with sinne.

1. Reason.
Drawne frō
the desire of
knowledge.

*First in mans mind we find an appetite
To learne and know the truth of euery thing,
Which is connaturall, and borne with it,
And from the Essence of the Soule doth spring.*

*With this desire she hath a natieue might
To find out euery truth, if she had time
Th'innumerable effects to sort aright,
And by degrees from cause to cause to clime.*

*But since our life so fast away doth slide,
As doth a hungry Eagle through the wind,
Or as a Ship transported with the tide,
Which in their passage leaue no print behind;*

*Of which swift litle time so much we spend, (straine;
While some few things we through the sense do
That our short race of life is at an end,
Ere we the principles of skill attaine.*

*Or God (which to vaine ends hath nothing done),
In vaine this appetite and power hath given,
Or else our knowledge which is here begon,
Hereafter must be perfected in heaven.*

*God neuer gaue a power to one whole kind,
But most part of that kind did vse the same;
Most eyes haue perfect fight, though some be blind;
Most leggs can nymbly run, though some be lame;*

But

But in this life no *Soule* the truth can know
 So perfectly, as it hath power to do;
 If then perfection be not found below,
 An higher place must make her mount thereto,

Againe, how can she but immortall bee
 When with the motions of both *will* and *wit*,
 She still aspireth to eternitie,
 And neuer rests, till she attaine to it?

a. Reason.
 Drawn from
 the motion of
 the Soule.

Water in conduit pipes can rise no higher
 Then the well head, from whence it first doth spring;
 Then since to eternall God she doth aspire,
 She cannot be but an eternall thing.

" All mouing things to other things do moue
 " Of the same kind, which shewes their nature such;
 So *earth* falls downe, and *fire* doth mount aboue,
 Till both their proper Elements do touch.

And as the moisture which the thirstie earth
 Suckles from the sea, to fill her emptie vaines;
 From out her wombe at last doth take a birth,
 And runnes a *Nymph* along the grassie plaines;

The Soule
 compared to
 a Riuer.

Long doth she stay, as loath to leaue the land,
 From whose soft side she first did issue make;
 She tastes all places, turnes to euery hand,
 Her flowrie bankes vnwilling to forsake.

Yet *nature* so her streames doth lead and carry,
 As that her course doth make no finall stay,
 Till she her selfe vnto the *Ocean* marry,
 Within whose watry bosome first she lay;

Euen so the *Soule*, which in this earthly mould
 The Spirit of God doth secretly infuse;
 Because at first she doth the earth behold,
 And onely this materiall world she views;

At first our *mother earth* she holdeth dere,
 And doth embrace the world and worldly things;
 She flies close by the ground, and hovers here,
 And mounts not vp, with her celestiall wings.

Yet vnder heaven she cannot light on ought,
 That with her heauenly *nature* doth agree;
 She cannot rest, she cannot fixe her thought,
 She cannot in this world contented be.

For who did euer yet in *honour, wealth,*
 Or *pleasure of the sense* contentment find?
 Who euer ceald' to wish, when he had *health;*
 Or hauing *wisedome*, was not vext in minde?

Then as a *Bee* which among weeds doth fall
 Which seeme sweet floures, with lustre fresh, & gay,
 She lights on that, and this, and tasteth all;
 But pleas'd with none, doth rise and fore away;

So

So when the *soule* finds here no true content,
 And like *Noahs* Dove can no sure footing take,
 She doth returne from whence she first was sent,
 And flies to *him* that first her wings did make.

*VV*it seeking *truth*, from cause to cause ascends,
 And neuer rests, till it the *first* attaine;
*VV*ill, seeking *good*, finds manie middle ends,
 But neuer stayes, till it the *last* do gaine.

Now God the *Truth* and *first* of causes is,
 God is the *last good end*, which lasteth still,
 Being *Alpha* and *omega* nam'd for this,
Alpha to wit, *omega* to the will.

Sith then her heavenly kind she doth bewray,
 In that to God she doth directly moue,
 And on no mortall thing can make her stay,
 She cannot be from hence, but from *aboue*.

And yet this *first true cause*, and *last good end*,
 She cannot heare so well, and truly see;
 For this perfection she must yet attend,
 Till to her *maker* she espoused bee.

As a *Kings* daughters, being in person sought
 Of diuerse Princes, which do neighbour neare,
 On none of them can fixe a constant thought,
 Though she to all do lend a gentle care;

Yet can she loue a Forraine *Emperour*,
 Whom of great worth, and power she beares to bee,
 If she be woo'd but by *Embassadour*,
 Or but his *letters*, or his *picture* sees;

For well she knowes, that when she shalbe brought
 Into the *Kingdome*, where her *spouse* doth raigne,
 Her eyes shall see, what she conceiu'd in thought,
 Himselfe, his state, his glorie, and his traine;

So while the *virgin Soule* on *Earth* doth stay,
 She woo'd and tempted is ten thousand wayes
 By these great powers, which on the *earth* beare sway,
 The *wisdom* of the *world*, *wealth*, *pleasure*, *praise*.

With these sometime she doth her time beguile,
 These do by fits her phantasie possesse;
 But she distasts them all within a while,
 And in the sweetest finds a Tedioufnesse.

But if vpon the worlds Almighty King,
 She once do fixe her humble louing thought,
 Which by his *picture* drawne in euerie thing,
 And *sacred messages* her *loue* hath sought;

Of him she thinks she cannot thinke too much,
 This hony tasted still, is euer sweete;
 The pleasure of her ravisht thought is such,
 As almost here, she with her blisse doth meete.

But when in heauen she shall his *Essence* see,
This is her *soveraigne good*, and *perfect blisse*,
Her longings, withings, hopes, all finisht bee,
Her ioyes are full, her Motions rest in this;

There is the Crownd with garlands of *content*,
There doth she Manna eate, and Nectar drinke;
That presence doth such high delights present,
As neuer tongue could speake, nor hart could think.

For this the better *Soules* do oft despise
The bodies death, and do it oft desire:
For when on ground the burthened ballance lyes,
The emptic part is lifted vp the higher.

3. Reason.
From contēpt
of death in
the better
sort of spirits

But if the bodies death the *Soule* should kill,
Then death must needs *against her nature* bee;
And were it so, all *Soules* would flye it still,
For Nature hates and shunnes her contrarie.

For all things else, which Nature makes to bee,
Their *being* to preferue are cheifly taught;
For though some things desire a chaunge to see,
Yet neuer thing did long to turne to nought,

If then by death the *soule* were quenched quite,
She could not thus *against her nature* runne;
Since euerie senselesse thing by Natures light,
Doth preferuation seeke, destruction shunne.

Nor could the worlds best spirits so much erre,
 If death rooke all, that they should all agree,
 Before this life their *honor* to preferre;
 For what is praise to things that nothing bee?

Againe, if by the bodies prop she stand,
 If on the bodies life, her life depend,
 As *Meleagers* on the fatall brand,
 The bodies good she onely would intend.

We should not find her halfe so braue and bold,
 To lead it to the warres, and to the Seas;
 To make it suffer watchings, hunger, cold,
 When it might feed with plentie, rest with ease.

Doubtlesse all *Soules* haue a suruiuing thought;
 Therefore of death we thinke with quiet mind;
 But if we thinke of *being turn'd to nought*,
 A trembling horror in our *Soules* we find.

4. Reason.
 From the
 feare of
 death in the
 wicked
 soules.

And as the better spirit, when she doth beare
 A scorne of death, doth shew she cannot dye;
 So when the wicked *Soule* deaths face doth feare,
 Euen then she proues her owne Eternity.

For when deaths forme appeares, she feareth not
 An vtter quenching, or extinguishment;
 She would be glad to meete with such a lot,
 That so she might all future ill prevent.

But

But she doth doubt what after may befall;
For natures law accuseth her within;
And saith, T'is true that is affirm'd by all,
That after Death there is a paine for sinne.

Then she which hath bene hudwinckt from her birth,
Doth first her selfe within Deaths mirror see;
And when her bodie doth returne to earth,
She first takes care, how she alone shall bee.

Who euer sees these irreligious men,
With burthen of a sicknesse weake and faint;
But heares them talking of religion then,
And vowing of their *Soules* to euery Saint?

When was there euer curst *Atheist* brought
Vnto the *Gibbet*, but he did adore
That blessed power, which he had set at nought,
Scorn'd and blasphem'd, all his life before?

These light vaine persons still are drunke and mad,
With surfettings, and pleasures of their youth;
But at their deaths they are fresh, sober, sad,
Then they discern, and then they speake the truth.

If then all *Soules* both good and bad do teach,
With generall voice, that *Soules* can neuer dye;
T'is not mans flattering glose, but *Natures speech*,
Which like *Gods* oracle, can neuer lye.

¶ Reason.
F:6 the ge-
nerall desire
of Immorta-
litie.

Hence springs that vniuersall strong desire,
Which all men haue of Immortalitie;
Not some Few spirits vnto this thought aspire,
But all mens minds in this vnited bee.

Then this desire of Nature is not vaine,
“ She couets not Impossibilities;
“ Fond thoughts may fall into some idle braine,
“ But one *Assent* of all, is euer wise.

From hence that generall care and studie springs,
That *launting* and *progression of the mind*,
Which all men haue so much of Future things,
As they no ioy do in the present find.

From this desire, that maine desire proceeds,
Which all men haue, suruiuing Fame to gaine,
By *Tombes*, by *Bookes*, by memorable *Deedes*,
For she that this desires, doth still remaine.

Hence lastly springs Care of posterities,
For things their kind would euerlasting make;
Hence is it, that old men do plant young Trees,
The fruite whereof another age shall take.

If we these Rules vnto our selues apply,
And view them by reflection of the mind;
All these true notes of Immortalitie,
In our *Hearts Tables* we shall written find.

And

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And though some impious wits do questions moue,
And doubt if *Soules* immortall be or no;
That *doubts* their Immortalitie doth proue;
Because they seeme immortall things to know.

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6 Reason.
From the very
doubt and
disputation
of Immorta-
litye.

For he which reasons on both parts doth bring,
Doth some things mortall, some immortall call;
Now if himselfe were but a mortall thing,
He could not Iudge immortall things at all.

For when we iudge, our minds we mirrours make;
And as those glasses which materiall bee,
Formes of materiall things do onely take;
For thoughts or minds in them we cannot see:

So when we God and Angels do conceiue,
And thinke of *truth*, which is eternall to;
Then do our minds immortall formes receiue,
Which if they mortall were, they could not do.

And as if beasts conceiu'd what Reason were,
And that conception should distinctly show,
They should the name of *reasonable* beare;
For without *Reason* none could *reason* know.

So when the *Soule* mounts with so high a wing,
As of eternall things she *doubts* can moue;
She proofes of her eternitie doth bring,
Euen when she strives the contrary to proue.

Foreuen the *thought* of Immortalitie,
 Being an act done without the bodies aide,
 Shewes that her selfe alone could moue, and bee,
 Although the body in the graue were laide.

And if her selfe she can so liuely moue,
 And neuer need a forraine helpe to take,
 Then must her motion euerlasting proue,
 " Because her selfe she neuer can forsake.

That the
 Soule cannot
 be destroyed

But though corruption cannot touch the mind,
 By any cause that from it selfe may spring;
 Some outward cause fate hath perhaps designd,
 Which to the *Soule* may vtter quenching bring.

The cause
 is certain.

Perhaps her *cause* may cease, and she may die;
 God is her *cause*, his *word* her maker was,
 Which shall stand fixt for all eternitie,
 When heauen and earth shall like a shadow passe.

She hath no
 contrary.

Perhaps some thing repugnant to her kind,
 By strong *Antipathy* the *Soule* may kill;
 But what can be *contrarie* to the mind,
 Which holds all *contraries* in concord still?

She lodgeth heate, and cold, and moist, and drie,
 And life, and death, and peace, and warre together;
 Ten thousand fighting things in her do lye,
 Yet neither troubleth or disturbeth either.

Perhaps

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Perhaps for want of foode the *Soule* may pine;
 But that were strange, since all things *bad* and *good*,
 Since all Gods creatures *mortall* and *diuine*,
 Since *God himselfe* is her eternall food.

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She cannot
 dye for want
 of food.

Bodies are fed with things of mortall kind,
 And so are subiect to mortalitie;
 But *truth*, which is eternall, feeds the mind;
 The *tree of life* which will not let her dye.

Yet violence perhaps the *Soule* destroyes;
 As lightning or the *Sun-beames* dimme the sight;
 Or as a thunder-clap or Cannons noyse,
 The powre of hearing doth astonish quite.

Violence
 not destroy
 her.

But high perfection to the *Soule* it brings,
 T'encounter things most excellent and high;
 For when she viewes the best and greatest things,
 They do not hurt, but rather cleare her eye.

Besides as *Homers Gods* gainst Armies stand,
 Her subtile forme can through all dangers slide;
Bodies are captiue, *minds* endure no band,
 " And will is free, and can no force abide.

But lastly *Time* perhaps at last hath power
 To spend her liuely powers, and quench her light;
 But old God *Saturne* which doth all deuour,
 Doth cherish her, and still augment her might.

Time cannot
 destroy her.

Heauen waxeth old, and all the *Sphaeres* about
 Shall one day faint, and their swift motion stay;
 And *Time* it selfe in *Time* shall cease to moue;
 Onely the Soule *suruiues*, and liues for aye.

“ Our bodies euery footstep that they make,
 “ March towards death, vntill at last they dye;
 “ Whether we worke, or play, or sleep, or wake,
 “ Our life doth passe, and with *times* wings doth flie.

But to the Soule Time doth perfection giue,
 And ads fresh lustre to her beautie still;
 And makes her in eternall youth to liue,
 Like her which Nectar to the Gods doth fill.

The more she liues, the more she feeds on *truth*,
 The more she feeds, her *strength* doth more increase;
 And what is *strength*, but an effect of *youth*?
 Which if *time* nurse, how can it euer cease?

Obiections
 against the
 Immortali-
 tie of the
 Soule.

But now these *Epicures* begin to smile,
 And say, my doctrine is more safe then true,
 And that I fondly do my selfe beguile,
 While these receiue opinions I ensue.

1. Obiection.
 For what say they, doth not the Soule wax old?

How comes it then, that aged men doe deate?
 And that their braines grow sottish, dull, and cold,
 Which were in youth the onely spirits of noate?

What?

What? are not *Soules* within themselves corrupted?
 How can there Idiots then by Nature bee?
 How is it that some wits are interrupted,
 That now they dazled are, now clearly see?

These Questions make a subtle Argument, Answer.
 To such as thinke both *Sense* and *reason* one;
 To whom nor agent, from the Instrument,
 Nor power of working, from the worke is knowne.

But they that know that wit can shew no skill,
 But when the things in *Senses* glasse doth view,
 Do know, if accident this glasse do spill,
 It *nothing sees*, or *sees the false for true*.

For if that region of the tender braine,
 Wherein th'inward sense of phantasie should sit;
 And th'outward senses gatherings should retaine,
 By nature, or by chance, become vnfit.

Either at first vncapable it is,
 And so few things or none at all receiues;
 Or mard by accident, which haps amisse;
 And so amisse it every thing perceiues;

Then as a cunning Prince that vseth *Spies*,
 If they returne no newes, doth nothing know;
 But if they make aduertizement of *Lyes*,
 The Princes Counsell all awrie do go;

Euen so the *Soule* to such a body knit,
Whose inward senses vndisposed bee,
And to receiue the formes of things vnfit,
Where nothing is brought in, can nothing see.

This makes the Idiot, which hath yet a mind,
Able to *know* the truth, and *chuse* the good,
If she such figures in the braine did find,
As might be found, if it in temper stood.

But if a *Phrensie* do possesse the braine,
It so disturbes and blots the formes of things,
As phantasie proues altogether vaine,
And to the wit no true relation brings.

Then doth the wit admitting all for true,
Build fond conclusions on those idle grounds;
Then doth it flie the good, and ill pursue,
Beleeuing all that this false *Spie* propounds.

But purge the humors, and the rage appease,
Which this distemper in the fancie wrought,
Then *will* the *wit*, which neuer had disease,
Discourse, and Iudge discretely as it ought.

So though the clouds eclips the *Suns* faire light,
Yet from his face they do not take one beame;
So haue our eyes their perfect power of sight,
Euen when they looke into a troubled streame.

Then

Then these defects in *Senses* organes bee,
Not in the *Soule*, or in her working might;
She cannot loose her perfect power to see,
Though mists, & clouds, do choke her window light.

These Imperfections then we must impute,
Not to the Agent, but the Instrument;
We must not blame *Apollo*, but his lute,
If false accords from her false strings be sent.

The *Soule* in all hath one Intelligence;
Though too much moisture in an Infants braine,
And too much driness in an old mans sense,
Cannot the prints of outward things retaine;

Then doth the *Soule* want worke, and idle sit,
And this we *childishnesse*, and *dotage* call:
Yet hath she then a quicke and actiue wit,
If she had stuffe and tooles to worke withall.

For, giue her organes fit, and obiects faire;
Giue but the aged man the yong mans sense;
Let but *Medea* *Aesons* youth repaire,
And straight she shewes her wonted excellence.

As a good harper stricken farre in yeares,
Into whose cunning hands the gowte is fall;
All his old Crochets in his braine he beares,
But on his harpe plays ill, or not at all;

But if *Apollo* take his gowte away,
 That he his nimble fingers may applie,
Apolloes selfe will enuie at his play,
 And all the world applaud his minftrallie.

Then *dotage* is no weaknesse of the mind,
 But of the *Sense*: for if the mind did wast,
 In all old men we should this wasting find,
 When they some certaine terme of yeares had past.

But most of them euen to their dying howre,
 Retaine a mind more liuely, quick, and strong,
 And better vse their vnderstanding power, (yong.
 Thē when their braines were warme, & limmes were

For though the body wasted be and weake,
 And though the leaden forme of earth it beares,
 Yet when we heare that halfe-dead body speake,
 We oft are raiisht to the heauenly *Spheares*.

1. Obiection. Yet say these men, if all her organes dye,
 Then hath the *Soule* no power her powers to vse;
 So in a fort her powers extinct do lye,
 When vnto *act* she cannot them reduce.

And if her powers be dead, then what is she?
 For since from euery thing some *powers* do spring,
 And from those powers some *acts* proceeding bee,
 Then kill both *power*, and *act*, and kill the *thing*.
 Doubtlesse

Doubtlesse the bodies death, when once it dies,
The instruments of sense and life doth kill;
So that she cannot vse those faculties,
Although their roote rest in her substance still.

But (as the bodie liuing,) *wit* and *will*
Can *iudge* and *chuse*, without the bodies ayde;
Though on such objects they are working still,
As through the bodies organs are conuayde.

So when the bodie serues her turne no more,
And all her *Senses* are extinct and gone,
She can discourse of what she learn'd before,
In heavenly contemplations all alone.

So if one man well on a Lute doth play,
And haue good horsemanship, and learnings skill,
Though both his Lute and horse we take away,
Doth he not keepe his former learning still?

He keepes it doubtlesse, and can vse it to;
And doth both th'other *skills* in power retaine,
And can of both the proper actions do,
If with his Lute or Horse he meete againe.

So (though the instruments by which we liue,
And view the world, the bodies death do kill;
Yet with the body they shall all reuiue,
And all their wonted offices fulfill.

3. Obiection. *But how* till then shall she her selfe imploy? (before,
 Her spies are dead, which brought home newes
 What she hath got and keepes, she may enioy,
 But she hath meanes to vnderstand no more.

Then what do those poore *Soules* which nothing get?
 Or what do those which get and cannot keepe?
 Like Buckets bottomlesse, which all out let;
 Those *Soules* for want of exercise must sleepe.

Answer. *See how* mans *Soule* against it selfe doth strieve;
 Why should we not haue other meanes to know?
 As children while within the wombe they liue
 Feede by the nauill; here they feede not so.

These children, if they had some vse of sense,
 And should by chance their mothers talking heare,
 That in short time they shal come forth from thence,
 Would feare their birth, more then our death we
 (feare.

They would cry out, if we this place shall leaue,
 Then shall we breake our tender nauill strings;
 How shall we then our nourishment receaue,
 Since our sweet food no other conduit brings?

And if a man should to these babes reply,
 That into this faire world they shalbe brought,
 Where they shall see the earth, the *Sea*, the sky;
 The glorious *Sun*, and all that God hath wrought;
 That

That there ten thousand dainties they shall meete,
Which by their mouths they shal with pleasure take,
Which shalbe cordiall too, aswell as sweete,
And of their litle lymbes tall bodies make,

This would they thinke a fable, euen as we
Do thinke the *Storie* of the *golden age*;
Or as some sensuall spirits amongst vs be,
Which hold the *world to come*, a *fained stage*.

Yet shall these infants after find all true,
Though then thereof they nothing could conceiue;
Assoone as they are borne, the world they view,
And with their mouthes the nurses milke receiue.

So when the *Soule* is borne (for death is nought,
But the *Soules* birth, and so we should it call)
Ten thousand things she sees beyond her thought,
And in an vnknowne maner knowes them all.

Then doth she see by Spectacles no more,
She heares not by report of double spies;
Herselfe in instants doth all things explore,
For each thing present, and before her lyes.

But still this crew with questions me pursues:
If *soules* deceased (say they) still liuing bee,
Why do they not returne, to bring vs newes
Of that strange world, where they such wonders see?

4. Obiection.

Answer.

Fond men if we belecue, that men do liue
 Vnder the *Zenith* of both frozen *Poles*,
 Though none come thence aduertizement to giue,
 Why beare we not the like faith of our *Soules*?

The *Soule* hath here on earth no more to do,
 Then we haue businesse in our mothers wombe:
 What child doth couet to returne thereto?
 Although all children first from thence do come?

But as *Noahs* pigeon which returnd no more,
 Did shew shew footing found for all the flood;
 So when good *Soules* departed through deaths dore
 Come not againe, it shewes their dwelling good.

And doubtlesse such a *Soule* as vp doth mount,
 And doth appeare before her Makers face,
 Holds this vile world in such a base account,
 As she lookes downe, & scornes this wretched place.

But such as are detruded downe to hell,
 Either for shame they still themselues retire;
 Or tyed in chaines, they in close prison dwell,
 And cannot come, although they much desire.

5. Obiection *VVell well* say these vaine spirits, though vaine it is
 To thinke our *Soules* to heauen or hell do go,
Politique men haue thought it not amisse,
 To spread this *lye*, to make men vertuous so.

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Do you then thinke this *morall vertue* good?

Answer.

I thinke you do; euen for your priuate gaine;
For common wealths by *vertue* euer stood,
And common good the priuate doth containe.

If then this *vertue* you do loue so well,
Haue you no meanes her practize to maintaine,
But you this *lye* must to the people tell,
That good *Soules* liue in ioy, and ill in paine?

Must *vertue* be preserued by a *lye*?
Vertue and *Truth* do euer best agree;
By this it seemes to be a veritie,
Since the effects so good and vertuous bee.

For as the Diuell father is of lyes,
So vice and mischief do his lyes ensue;
Then this good doctrine did not he deuise,
But made this *lye*, which saith it is not true.

For how can that be false, which every tong
Of euery mortall man, affirms for true?
Which truth hath in all ages bene so strong,
As lodestone-like all harts it euer drew.

The generall
consent of all.

For not the *Christian*, or the *Jew* alone,
The *Persian*, or the *Turke*, acknowledge this,
This mysterie to the wild *Indian* knowne,
And to the *Canniball* and *Tartar* is.

This rich *Assirian* drugge growes euery where,
 As common in the *North*, as in the *East*;
 This doctrine doth not enter by the *care*,
 But of it selfe is natieue in the breast.

None that acknowledge God, or prouidence,
 Their *Soules* eternitie did euer doubt,
 For all *religion* takes her roote from hence,
 Which no poore naked nation liues without.

For since the world for man created was,
 (For onely man the vse thereof doth know)
 If man do perish like a withered grasse,
 How doth Gods wisdome order things below?

And if that wisdome still wise ends propound,
 Why made he man of other creatures king?
 When (if he perish here) there is not found,
 In all the world so poore and vile a thing?

If death do quench vs quite, we haue great wrong,
 Since for our seruice all things else were wrought,
 That *Dawes*, and *Trees*, and *Rocks*, should last so long,
 When we must in an instant passe to nought.

But blest be that *great power*, that hath vs blest,
 With longer life then heauen or earth can haue;
 Which hath enfsld into one mortall brest
 Immortall powers, not subiect to the graue.

For

For though the *Soule* do seeme her graue to beare,
 And in this world is almost buried quick,
 We haue no cause the bodies death to feare,
 " For when the shell is broke, out comes a chick.

For as the *Soules Essentiall* powers are three,
 The *quickning* power, the *power of Sense*, and *Reason*,
 Three kinds of life to her designed bee,
 Which perfect these three powers in their due season.

Three kinds
 of life aun-
 swerable to
 the three
 powers of
 the soule.

The first life in the mothers wombe is spent,
 Where she her *nursing* power doth onely vse;
 Where when she finds defect of nourishment,
 Sh^e expels her body, and this world she viewes.

This we call *Birth*, but if the child could speake,
 He *death* would call it, and of nature plaine;
 That she would thrust him out naked, and weake,
 And in his passage pinch him with such paine.

Yet out he comes, and in this world is plac't,
 Where all his *Senses* in perfection bee,
 Where he finds flowers to smell, and fruits to tast,
 And sounds to heare, and sundry formes to see.

When he hath past some time vpon this Stage,
 His *reason* then a litle seemes to wake;
 Which though she spring whē sense doth faile with
 Yet can she here, no perfect practise make. (age,

A men doth th'aspiring *Soule* the bodie leaue,
 Which we call *death*; but were it knowne to all,
 What *life* our *Soules* do by this *death* receaue,
 Men would it *birth*, or *Gaole deliuey* call.

In this third life Reason will be so bright,
 As that her sparke will like the *Sun-beames* shine,
 And shall of God enjoy the reall sight,
 Being still increast by influence diuine.

Anacelama. *Ignorant* poore man, what doost thou beare,
 Lock't vp within the Casker of thy breast?
 What Jewels, and what riches hast thou there?
 What heavenly treasure in so weake a cheast?

Looke in thy *Soule*, and thou shalt *beauties* find,
 Like those which drownd *Narcissus* in the floud,
Honor, and *Pleasure* both are in thy mind,
 And all that in the world is counted *good*.

Thinke of her worth, and thinke that God did meane,
 This worthie mind should worthy things embrace;
 Blot not her beauties with thy thoughts vncleane,
 Nor her dishonor with thy passions base;

Kill not her *quickning power* with surfettings,
 Marre not her *sense* with Sensualities,
 Cast not her serious *wit* on idle things,
 Make not her free *will* slaue to vanities.

And

And when thou thinkst of her *eternitie*,
Take not that *death* against her nature is;
I thinke it a *birth*: and when thou goest to die,
Sing like a Swan, as if thou wentst to blisse.

And if thou like a Child didst feare before,
Being in the darke, where thou didst nothing see;
Now I haue brought thee *torch-light*, Feare no more;
Now when thou Diest, thou canst not hudwink bee.

And thou my *Soule*, which turnst thy Curious eye,
To view the beames of thine owne forme diuine,
Know, that thou canst know nothing perfectly,
While thou art Clouded with this flesh of mine.

Take heed of *ouer-weening*, and compare
Thy Peacocks feet with thy gay Peacocks traine:
Studie the best, and highest things that are,
But of thy selfe an humble thought retaine;

Cast downe thy selfe, and onely strive to raise
The glorie of thy Makers sacred name;
Use all thy powers, that blessed power to praise,
Which gives thee power to *be*, and *use the same*.

FINIS.

M